

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 ABF-01 OMB-01  
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P R 201553Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8924  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK  
SUBJECT: THE GUARDIAN ARTICLE

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY PATRICK KEATLEY APPEARED IN THE  
DECEMBER 18 EDITION OF THE GUARDIAN UNDER THE TITLE,  
"CARTER BACKS RHODESIA FUND". IN THE ARTICLE KEATLEY  
MAKES THE ALLEGATION THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTRIBUTE  
\$1 BILLION TO THE FUND.

BEGIN TEXT: THE TRUST FUND FOR RHODESIA, ORIGINALLY AN-  
NOUNCED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS AN IDEA OF DR.  
KISSINGER'S, HAS WON THE ENDORSEMENT OF MR. CARTER, AND  
IS TO BE RAISED FROM ITS ORIGINAL TARGET TO A NEW FIGURE  
OF 1.3 BILLION POUNDS.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. CROSLAND, WILL BE SIGNING  
THE LETTERS GOING OUT THIS WEEKEND TO FOREIGN MINISTERS  
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IN 25 FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, MOST OF THEM MEMBERS OF THE EEC  
OR THE COMMONWEALTH, INVITING THEM TO JOIN WITH BRITAIN  
AND AMERICA IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT--  
THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE FUND PLAN WAS DEAD  
NOW THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS ABOUT TO LEAVE OFFICE-

IS THAT THE COMMITMENT BY MAJOR WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, TOGETHER WITH SOME THAT ARE NON-ALIGNED, MAY PROVE TO BE A POWERFUL DIPLOMATIC LEVER FOR THE BRITISH ENVOY, MR. RICHARD, WHEN HE MEETS MR. VORSTER, IN PRETORIA, AND MR. SMITH, IN SALISBURY, DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TOUR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MR. JOHN REINHARDT AND MR. FRANK WISNER, WHO ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON ON WEDNESDAY, RETURNED HOME LAST NIGHT AFTER THEIR CONFIDENTIAL TALKS HERE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IT SEEMS THEY WERE EMPOWERED TO COMMIT THE DEPARTMENT--AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS RATHER THAN PARTY POLITICAL MEN--TO A CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIA PROBLEM.

BACKSTAGE CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH THE STILL SHADOWY CARTER ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING HIS FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE, MR. VANCE.

AND ALL SIGNALS ARE GO. AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BRITISH DIPLOMACY WILL BE, IF ANYTHING, STRONGER WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER MOVES INTO THE WHITE HOUSE ON JANUARY 20.

AND THIS MEANS THAT MR. RICHARD CAN EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN PRETORIA TO FIND THE WAY ALREADY PAVED FOR HIM BY HELPFUL MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON. THIS STILL DOES NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS IN EXERTING LEVERAGE THROUGH MR. VORSTER ON MR. SMITH, BUT IT MAKES THE STRATEGY MUCH MORE CREDIBLE.

THE "ROUND ROBIN" LETTERS GOING OUT FROM MR. CROSLAND INVITE FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO TOP UP THE MAJOR SINGLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$1 BILLION--FAR FROM THE TOTAL--BEING PUT INTO THE POT BY THE AMERICANS.

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THERE HAVE BEEN HOPEFUL INDICATIONS FROM CANADA, FRANCE, AND WEST GERMANY OF READINESS TO HELP, AND THE FUND IS BUDGETED OVER A 20-YEAR PERIOD SO THAT THE TARGET OF SOME 650 MILLIONS (POUNDS) IS NOT AS DIFFICULT AS IT MIGHT APPEAR.

MR. RICHARD LEAVES TODAY FOR NEW YORK TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH HIS FAMILY. THEY HAVE REMAINED THERE WHILE MR. RICHARD WAS SECONDED FROM HIS POST AS HEAD OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION AT THE UN TO CHAIR THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MR. RICHARD MAY MEET DR. WALDHEIM WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK, BUT IN ANY CASE HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR LUSAKA, THE ZAMBIAN CAPITAL, SOON AFTER CHRISTMAS, ON THE FIRST LEG OF HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LAST TWO WEEKS.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RESUMES ON JANUARY 17.END TEXT

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